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CH2M HILL Hanford Group pledges \$2 million to Washington State University

RICHLAND, Wash.—CH2M HILL Hanford Group today announced it would give a \$2 million endowment to WSU Tri-Cities, the largest donation ever given to this branch of the University.

CH2M HILL Hanford Group President Fran DeLozier announced the grant at a news conference also attended by Washington State University President Lane Rawlins and WSU Tri-Cities Campus Executive Officer and Dean Larry James. The endowment of \$2 million in cash and in-kind contributions over a period of six years will be used to support information technology and entrepreneurial programs.

"This generous gift enables Washington State University to continue expanding the critical delivery of computer science and information technology education in the mid-Columbia region, as well as advance our efforts in other programs," said Dean Larry James.

The endowment formalizes CH2M HILL Hanford Group's commitment to continue supporting WSU Tri-Cities programs. The grant will benefit education in management information systems and computer science, as well as the Southeastern Washington Business Information Center, the WSU Tri-Cities' Business LINKS, and the Yakima Valley/Tri-Cities MESA (Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement) program.

"Information technology jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities will be available locally," said CH2M HILL Hanford Group President Fran DeLozier. "We don't need to create them. We are helping to provide WSU with the resources to prepare people for these jobs, while making an effort to keep them and their talent in our community. It makes economic sense to strengthen our community in this way."

The grant continues support to strengthen the university's computer science program. In the last year, CH2M HILL funding enabled WSU to increase its computer science faculty size by 50 percent and offer a broader array of course work.

Continued support for WSU Business LINKS will help students and area businesses. Last summer, 28 LINKS interns were placed in Tri-City businesses and non-profit and government organizations.

A Columbia Basin College/WSU transfer office established and operated with continued support from CH2M HILL is helping approximately 100 students per month. The goal is to make it easier for CBC transfer-bound students to stay in the area and earn their degrees.

Support for the MESA program will help area students that are underrepresented in the fields of mathematics, engineering, and science to achieve their potential and pursue careers in those fields.

As the Department of Energy Office of River Protection's prime contractor, CH2M HILL Hanford Group is responsible for storing and retrieving for treatment approximately 53 million gallons of highly radioactive and hazardous waste stored in 177 underground tanks at DOE's Hanford Site.

An employee-owned company, CH2M HILL was founded in 1946. Today the firm serves clients on six continents with engineering, construction and operations services for environmental, energy, water, transportation and industrial infrastructure.

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